

February 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Bill # 5174 to establish the Michaela Petit Four-O'Clock as the CT State Children's Flower.

I first began working on the Michaela's Four-O'Clock seed packaging project with her Uncle, Dennis Chapman. Dennis was committed to collecting the Four-O'Clock seeds, and then packaging, selling and planting them across the state. He engaged the help of local volunteer organizations, small farms, agricultural schools and even the CT Science Center. It was his goal to have these favorite flowers of Michaela Petit's be a part of the plant curriculum of science classes in schools throughout Connecticut. From what I understand, some schools are using the Michalea's Four-O'Clocks in their horticulture programs. In addition, the sale of the seeds benefits the mission of the Petit Family Foundation, which is to promote Women in the Sciences as well as anyone affected by violence.

I support the proposal of turning the tragic and brutal loss of Michalea Petit into something beautiful by naming the CT State Children's Flower in her honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronda Guberman
45 Arnoldale Road
West Hartford, CT 06119